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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/692,869	10/20/2000	William T. McHugh	08935-218001 / M-4926	6097

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EXAMINER

MARTIN, ANGELA J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1745

DATE MAILED: 04/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/692,869

Applicant(s)

MCHUGH ET AL.

Examiner

Angela J. Martin

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 January 2006.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7-13, 15, 18 and 21-43 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☒ Claim(s) 8, 9, 15, 18 is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7, 10-13 and 21-43 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is responsive to the Amendment filed on January 11, 2006. The Applicant has amended claims 1, 27, 33, and 37. However, the rejection is made final for the following reasons of record.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-5, 7, 10-13, 21-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tucholski, U.S. Pat. No. 6,300,004 B1.

Rejection of claims 1-5, 7, 10-13, 21-25, 27-43 drawn to a battery system; claim 26 drawn to method of making a battery.

Tucholski teaches a battery system comprising a casing, and a battery comprising a can (abstract) having longitudinal axis, a length that is parallel to the axis, and a cross section relative to the axis that is rectangular for substantially the entire length of the can, the can having a closed end and open end, a cathode, an anode, a separator, and a seal assembly attached to the open end of the can, wherein the assembly comprises a seal and a current collector attached to the seal (col. 1, lines 47-65). It teaches the cathode comprises manganese oxide (claim 6). It teaches the anode comprises zinc (claim 6). It teaches a barrier layer between the cathode and can, which

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is polytetrafluoroethylene (col. 16, lines 37-49). It teaches the can is electrically conductive (col. 1, lines 16-22). It teaches the can may have a rectangular cross section (col. 22, lines 37-40).

Tucholski does not teach a battery system comprising a casing to be used with an electronic device; the can has a square cross section; a battery can having a triangular cross section.

However, the invention as a whole would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made because in order to be usable, the battery can would be used in a casing within an electronic device. In addition, a square or triangular battery can would be more structurally fit for certain electrical devices.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 8, 9, 15, 18 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant claims a battery comprising the limitations of claim 8 (including a conductive hot melt material between the cathode and the can). Applicant claims a battery comprising the limitations of claim 9 (including a non-conductive melt between the cathode and the seal assembly). Applicant claims a method comprising the limitations of claim 15 (including placing a conductive melt in the can). Applicant claims a method comprising the limitations of claim 18 (including placing a non-conductive melt between the cathode and seal assembly).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed January 11, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Tucholski does not teach "a casing configured to receive one or more batteries to be received within an electronic device." However, as evidenced by Younkman et al., U.S. Pat. No. 2,066,510, it is well known in the art to have a casing configured to receive one or more batteries to be received within an electronic device. Applicant argues that the prior art of record does not teach a battery comprising a can having a triangular cross-section. However, as evidenced by Younkman et al., U.S. Pat. No. 2,066,510, Fig. 6 and col. 5, lines 24-27, there is more flexibility in battery placement within the electronic device. In addition, with respect to the casing, as evidenced in the Handbook of Batteries, a prismatic battery construction is well known in the art.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela J. Martin whose telephone number is 571-272-1288. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Ryan can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AJM



PATRICK JOSEPH RYAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER